

A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



This undated postcard shows the Warsaw river front. Kentucky Historical Society, Ronald Morgan Postcard Collection, Graphic5_Box16_430.

GALLATIN COUNTY: GREAT RIVER TRAGEDY

The invention of the steamboat drastically reduced travel time for 19th century Americans, but significantly increased the dangers of river travel. On Dec. 5, 1868, the steamboats "America" and the "United States" collided on the Ohio River near Warsaw. The "United States," carrying oil and other flammable material, caught fire—which quickly spread to the "America." Scores of people died in the crash. The "United States" was raised and repaired, but the "America" remains at the bottom of the river.



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100 W. Broadway | Frankfort KY | 502-564-1792 | history.ky.gov

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